

REMARKS

I

The specification has been amended to correct minor errors. Claims 13 has been amended. Claim 15 has been amended to correct an objection raised by the Office Action. No new matter is added by this amendment.

II

Brief Preliminary Comment - Applicants offer a brief preliminary comment as an aid to examination. Applicants have a rinsing cell for receiving an article (tubing) to be rinsed. The housing has a rinse chamber for receiving rinsing fluid via passages in the housing for providing the fluid. The article under an operative condition extends through an opening in the rinsing cell from the exterior of the cell to the interior of the cell and into the rinse chamber where the article is disposed to receive a rinsing fluid from the cell.

The cell has an opening which is not completely closed by the article for receiving the article and for guiding the article as it enters and as it is withdrawn from the rinse chamber. Thus, the opening must place the rinse chamber in communication with the exterior of the cell under the operative condition.

III

According to the Office Action, claims 13-18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lavalerie U.S. patent 4,826,582 in view of Pazdnikov, Swiss patent 588620

With reference numerals from Lavalerie added to reflect Applicants understanding of the Office Action, the Office Action as understood states that Lavalerie discloses a rinsing cell (?) having a housing (1), which is the tube (1) having the claimed configuration, a guide member (?), including the opening (not numbered), first (3) and second (5) conduits for the feeding and withdrawal of the fluid (see claims 1-7 and figures 1-3).

Further, the Office Action concludes that the Lavalerie reference fails to disclose the use of a plurality of passages with the slots and manifold (in Applicants' housing) as

claimed. However, the Office Action concludes that the Pazdnikov reference shows the use of a plurality of passage and slots in the housing to providing a plurality of nozzle openings to produce the feeding of fluids through passages in the housing as claimed.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants disclose a rinse cell having a housing which delivers rinse fluid to a tube which is inserted into the housing.

First, in contrast, Lavalerie discloses a tool 50 for delivering cleaning fluid (or electrolyte) to the interior of tube 1. The tool 50 (not the housing of Lavalerie) has a plurality of passages 65, 68 for injecting the fluid into the interior of the tube 1.

Secondly, like Lavalerie, Pazdnikov also discloses a tool (1-4) for delivering a cleaning fluid to the interior of a tube (pipe). The tool 1-4 has a plurality of passages 5 for injecting the fluid into the interior of the tube.

Accordingly, if the tube (1) is the housing, neither Lavalerie nor Pazdnikov disclose a rinse cell having a housing that delivers a cleaning fluid. In addition, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Pazdnikov referenced because the teaching of the Pazdnikov reference is the same as the Lavalerie reference and is merely cumulative to Lavalerie reference.

IV

Further, with regard to claim 1, the housing (tube 1) of Lavalerie does not have a bottom and does not have a guide member extending from the bottom of the chamber.

V

With regard to claims 14, 15 neither Lavalerie nor Pazdnikov have a housing having passages and, not having passages, cannot therefore disclose the orientation as claimed in claims 14, 15.

VI

With regard to claim 16, neither Lavalerie nor Pazdnikovs have a guide member whether for supplying cleaning fluid or having axially extending slots.

VII

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims and to the specification, and the reasons set forth herein, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 13-18 be withdrawn with allowance and passage to issue of claims 13-18.

Respectfully Submitted,

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